

## Contact details

**Appointments**      📞 01438 286112

## Questions

If you have any questions, please telephone the Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialist:

Toyin Ogunnorin      **Mobile** 📞 07918336186  
(Mon-Thursday 8-6pm)

If your call is not answered, please leave a message on the voicemail clearly stating your name and contact number and we will ring you back.

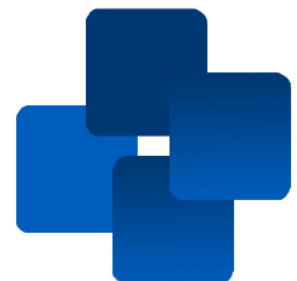
Please note, due to commitments on the wards and outpatient clinics, we cannot always return calls on the same day.

# The Haematology Service

## Bone Marrow Biopsy

### Cancer Services

### Information for Patients



## Introduction

This leaflet contains information about a bone marrow biopsy.

Please inform the clinician if you have any allergies, have had allergic reactions to any medications or are on warfarin, aspirin, ibuprofen or other blood thinning medications.

## General information

Having a bone marrow biopsy is a minor invasive, sterile procedure performed in the outpatients department. You will be able to drive yourself to and from the appointment and it is safe for you to go home to an empty house after the procedure. Please take paracetamol or your normal painkiller before attending the clinic.

## Why we have advised you to have a bone marrow test

The cells in your blood are produced in your bone marrow. A bone marrow biopsy is carried out to evaluate the function of your bone marrow. The bone marrow produces red cells, white cells and platelets. This test allows us to study these cells in the various stages of development, to better plan your treatment.

## The procedure

You will be asked to lie on a couch on your side with the lower part of your back exposed. The back of the hipbone/pelvis is the area from which the sample will be taken.

The skin is cleaned with an iodine solution. The area is numbed with local anaesthetic. This is done using a small needle and can sting for a few seconds. After the anaesthetic has taken effect, a needle will be inserted and cells from the bone marrow will be taken out with a syringe.

You may feel a 'pressure or pushing' sensation as the needle is inserted. There may be some discomfort and odd sensation down the leg.

The biopsy is done immediately after the aspiration. It consists of taking a small sample of bone tissue with a special needle. Samples from the procedure may be sent to another hospital for further analysis.

The procedure usually takes 20-30 minutes. A small dressing is then applied.

## After the procedure

When you get home and before you go to bed, check your dressing to ensure that this is still clean and dry. If the dressing is not blood stained, keep it clean, dry and intact for 24 hours. You can remove the dressing after that and can shower or bath.

You can take paracetamol or your normal painkillers as these will help. **Do not take aspirin or ibuprofen.**

A bruise may appear and the site may be uncomfortable.

If the site becomes red and inflamed, contact your GP as this may be an indication of infection.

Refrain from heavy lifting and other strenuous activities for the next 24 hours

Keep yourself hydrated.

The Haematology team will receive your results 2-3 weeks after the date of your bone marrow procedure. You will be given an appointment to discuss the results and treatment plan.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialist on 07918336186